

The Labor Argus.

Published in the Interest of Organized Labor in West Virginia.

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THURSDAY, AUGUST 9, 1906.

LABOR'S WATCHWORD.

WE WILL STAND BY OUR FRIENDS AND ADMINISTER A STINGING REBUKE TO MEN OR PARTIES WHO ARE EITHER INDIFFERENT, NEGLIGENT OR HOSTILE, AND WHEREVER OPPORTUNITY AFFORDS, SECURE THE ELECTION OF INTELLIGENT, HONEST, EARNEST TRADES-UNIONISTS, WITH CLEAR, UNBLEMISHED, PAID-UP UNION CARDS IN THEIR POSSESSION.

The sage brush has begun to rustle.

Above all things, remember the Union Label.

The flush of victory seldom comes from a one-card draw.

A fool can often make money, but it requires a wise man to spend judiciously.

When a man won't listen to reason there is no reason why he should be listened to.

The Labor Day Edition of the Argus will be a valuable advertising medium for our enterprising merchants who want to reach the people.

"Am I in West Virginia or Russia?" Was the question a commercial traveler asked upon his return trip up Cabin Creek some time ago. You'll have search us.

The trades-union movement was never numerically, financially or intellectually in better condition it is now, but it is not by any means as good, strong or powerful as it can be, should be and will be if we but do our duty.

All this rant and cant about the open-shop hallucination is positively enervating. Reduced to its final analysis, it means simply that the workingman shall not be allowed to combine for self-protection. However, the manufacturers, stockholders and bondholders can have all kinds of close corporations for the purpose of mulcting the public.

A farmer gravely discussing the labor union recently was heard to say that no doubt the union was a good thing in its way, but he did not believe in strikes. A few minutes later he was heard to complain that the dealers in farm products fixed both the buying and selling price, and to advocate a combination on the part of the farmer to hold his products out of the market until a better price was granted. Did it ever occur to him that that would be a strike and that he might even find some strike-breakers in his own class?

True education is that which develops all that is best in man, irrespective of his capacity for assimilating general knowledge. The education that simply fits a youth for "making his way in the world," as the saying goes, is responsible for that low standard of political and business morals which finds its natural expression in grafting and dishonesty. The development of character in youth is of far more importance than the development of brains and muscle. No man is manly, nor woman womanly, who lacks character, no matter how perfectly developed he or she may be in other respects.

"THE CLICK"

Occasionally we hear union men kicking because at each meeting there appears the same old workers "the click."

Who is it that is doing all the work for that union? Who has been doing it for the past year? "The click."

What has been the binding force so potent in all the years? Not money, for they never receive one cent for all the work they ever did, and never asked for any; perhaps it was love for wife, children and home, night after night these workers joined hands in the work for their organization; the union has prospered and is one of the best organizations in the city, and all because of the "the click."

The union has some committee work to do; nobody will do it; it falls to the worker's lot. There is an election; nobody wants an office; the worker takes it. What would your union be if it was not for "the click?"

If you think the worker is not doing right by your union, why don't you come to a meeting and vote him out of office? But no; they might have to do some of the work themselves, and you might have to lose a few hours of sleep or your boss might not like it. Now what thanks does the worker get? Did he ever get any? No, no; he would drop dead if any was offered him. The "knocker" goes out and hollers, "The union is run by a click."

And why? Because some white-livered son of a lobster did not have things his own way about something, or he is after something he wants very bad and is trying to cast discredit on the honest worker who won't let this lobster pull any wool over his eyes. The Lord loves a kicker, but not this kind.

A WORD FOR THE FAILURES.

Who among us is able to justly compute the debt of gratitude the world owes to some of its people who have not made a success of life, and who have died practical failures, because they have been too busy trying to make the world a little happier and a little better, to make money for themselves; people who have been too much occupied in doing good among their fellow-men to accumulate earthly riches; men who have taken too much of their time for the purpose of distributing the milk of human kindness to subserve their own interest? When men fall in desperate charges against the enemies of their own country they are lauded as heroes. When men die in defense of home and loved ones monuments are erected to their memories. When men give their lives to save those of others, the world rings with their praise and honor, but what do those get who go quietly through life doing good every day they live, brightening the existence of others and making happier mankind in general, often sacrificing their own life interests in their services for others, and finally passing unnoticed, unwept and unsung, into the great beyond? There, perhaps, at the hands of a just God, they may receive the reward that is due them and the credit that is honesty and justly theirs. They got very little of either here below.

The members of each union ought as far as possible to help the members of all other unions—that is, they should do all they can not alone for the union of their own craft, but for the unions of other crafts in the general interest of unionism. Buying only union-labeled goods accomplishes this object. If the printer needs a hat, let him help the hatters' union by buying one with their label on it; if the hatters wants a coat, let him get one with the garment makers' label; if the tailor needs shoes, he should see that the shoemakers' label is on the sole; if the shoemaker wishes the comfort of a smoke, let him demand a cigar or tobacco with the cigarmakers' union label on it. And so on throughout the circle.

"MONEYPHOBIA."

Here is a new word for you, especially coined to fit the present craze for wealth which has swept over the country and for which men everywhere, who have been always regarded as the soul of integrity and honesty, are sacrificing their honor, health, liberty and even lives in the mad rush for golden gain. The assistant Attorney-General of the United States takes a charitable view of it when he says:

"No charge is more false than that we are a money-loving people. No people of any time or clime ever cared less for money when earned than we. Prodigious expenditure rather than a narrow desire to hoard unnecessary wealth is the distinguishing characteristic of the average American. If he has a strong purpose and an earnest desire to amass wealth, it is in most cases because money is the necessary material for further constructive work. To achieve rather than to acquire is his ambition. We undoubtedly seek larger fortunes than our fathers, but this is not only due to our larger needs, caused by a more complicated and refined civilization, but also and principally to a finer recognition of our moral responsibility toward those dependent upon us."

His views on this subject are misleading when we stop to consider what men all around us are giving up for money. The people of the present age do love money. Madly, insanely, better than they love their souls many of them. Else why would they make the awful sacrifices and commit the damning crimes they do to secure it. Maybe you will modify it a little and say it is not the money but things it will procure that they love and crave for. Admitting it there is not vindication. Love of self is at the bottom of it, and to attain those desires of the human heart of today, the means are not considered. "Get money honestly if you can, but get money" is the motto of today.

BE A LOYAL UNION MAN.

Obeys the rules and regulations of your union, not to avoid the punishments, but to better your interests. If you have rules of which you do not approve, enforce them and they will be repealed. Do not expect to see dollars coming to you at each meeting. Stop to think of the many advantages to which you have grown accustomed, and now regard as a matter of course, but which, if taken from you, would show the deplorable condition existing previous to organizations of which they are a part, and, like citizens of this grand country, will never realize the enormous benefit unless it were possible to temporarily take it from them. Each member should attend the meeting of his local and when possible the conventions of the organization; for he will then be able to realize how small the dues are, and that he secures larger returns than from the same amount expended in any other manner.

The union is the last analysis is a business institution. Some union men think a union card is a lottery ticket, and they expect every number to win a prize. They put in a cent, get back 25 cents, and then kick because they didn't get a dollar. As a matter of fact, the cost of a union card is the best investment in the world, because it inevitably returns many a hundred per cent. in cash to the investor, besides bringing conditions of employment out of savagery into civilization.

Today is your day and mine, the only day we have, the day in which we play our part. What our part may signify in the great whole we may not understand, but we are here to play it, and now is our time. This we know, it is a cynicism. It is for us to express love in terms of helpfulness. This we know, for we have learned from sad experience that any other source of life leads toward decay and waste.

Shelton Drug Co.,

DRUGGISTS,

108 Capitol Street,

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WE ARE GREAT BELIEVERS

In the truth of the saying that

"He who tooteth not his own horn
the same shall not be tooted."

Maybe you think we have said too much about our superior kind of policies but when you investigate the kind we have, perhaps you will think the tooting wasn't too strong after all. We have the IDEAL WORKING MAN'S POLICY, a SQUARE DEAL POLICY in a home Company.

Southern States Mutual Life
Insurance Company,

Charleston, West Va.

Territory for First Class Agents.